IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 25 and 28 as follows.

Please cancel Claims 11-24, 26 and 27.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a pathogen inactivation treatment-ready blood product comprising:

providing a container system comprising at least a pre-connected interim container and a container including a liquid synthetic medium, wherein said medium container is in openable flow communication with said interim container;

providing a source container including a quantity of ~~blood or~~ a blood component, separate from the container system;

establishing fluid communication between said source container and said interim container,

transferring said ~~blood or~~ blood component to said interim container;

centrifuging said interim container to substantially separate said blood component into a layer of said blood component and a supernatant component layer;

substantially removing said supernatant component layer from said interim container; and

combining a selected quantity of said ~~blood or~~ blood component with a selected quantity of said synthetic medium within said interim container to provide a blood product with a pre-selected ratio of said blood or blood component to said

synthetic medium effective for said pathogen inactivation treatment.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said blood component substantially comprises red blood cells.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said blood component substantially comprises platelets and plasma.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said blood component substantially comprises plasma.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 comprising determining the quantity of said synthetic medium required for combination with said blood component to achieve said selected ratio of blood component to synthetic medium prior to said transferring.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which said step of establishing fluid communication between said source and interim containers is carried out in an essentially sterile manner.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 in which a sterile connection device is employed.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

centrifuging said source container to obtain a separation of a blood component from a supernatant component and removing

at least a portion of said supernatant component prior to combining said blood component with said synthetic medium.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9 further comprising determining the quantity of said supernatant component removed or determining in the quantity of said synthetic medium to be combined with said blood component.

11-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising providing ~~a container system comprising a pre-connected interim container, a container including a liquid storage medium and~~ a third container pre-connected to said interim container for receiving ~~a~~ said supernatant component, wherein said interim container is in openable flow communication with said third container.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~27~~ 25 comprising returning at least some of said supernatant component after said combining.